

REMARKS

At the time of the present Office Action, claims 1-12 were pending. No claims have been added, amended or canceled. Therefore, claims 1-12 are presented for consideration.

The Office Action requires restriction to one of the following two groups under 35 U.S.C. §121:

- I. Claims 1-7, drawn to compositions;
- II. Claims 8-12, drawn to methods of treatment.

Applicant hereby elects the claims of Group I, without traverse.

Applicants note that the Examiner has indicated that the process claims of Group II may be subject to rejoinder once the product claims have been allowed, in accordance with MPEP §821.04.

The Examiner has also requested an Election of Species for the IK_F channel blocker and the compounds of formula Ia or Ib. Applicant elects ibutilide as the IK_F channel blocker and the compound of Example 1, 2'-{[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)acetylamino]methyl}biphenyl-2-carboxylic acid (2-pyridin-3-ylethyl)amide, as a species of formula Ib as the second election. All of the claims read on this election of species.

It is submitted that the claims in the present application are now in condition for allowance, and action to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment resulting from this Amendment to Deposit Account 18-1982.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald G. Ort, Reg. No. 26,969
Attorney for Applicants

sanofi-aventis U.S. Inc.
Patent Department
Route #202-206 / P.O. Box 6800
Bridgewater, NJ 08807-0800
Telephone (908) 231-2551
Telefax (908) 231-2626